

MASON'S
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COIN AND STAMP
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

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No. 6.

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THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(*Continued.*)

We will leave this room and go into a much more cheerful one for a moment, to see the sorting of the planchets. They are thrown upon a table with two holes in it, and a woman picks out all the imperfect pieces or chips, which are slipped into one hole, and the perfect ones into the other, where they fall into different boxes. It is not much to see; so come into the entry, up the marble stairs into the second story, past the Director's room, out upon a gallery looking down upon the court yard below. At the further end of the gallery we pass through a small entry and enter a room. What a peculiar noise like a young ladies' school at recess, only a strange filing sound withal! Nearly sixty females, some young and pretty, some—middle aged and fine looking. Jessie will have to do the examination: we cannot stand the one hundred and twenty eyes brought to a focus on us.

She tells us it is the Adjusting Room. Each operator has on the table before a pair of assay scales. Seated close to the table, a leather apron, one end tacked to the table, is fastened under her arms to catch any gold that may fall. In short sleeves, to avoid sweeping away the dust, and armed with a fine flat file, she is at work, chatting and laughing merrily. She catches a double eagle planchet from a pile at her side and puts it into the scale. It is too heavy. She files it around the edge and weighs it. Still too heavy. Files it again, and weighs it. Almost right. Just touches it with the file. Right; the index is in the centre. She tosses it into the box and picks up another to undergo the same operation.

The proper weight of the double eagle is five hundred and sixteen grains and the smaller gold coins are in the same proportion. Absolute perfection is impossible in the weight of coin, as in other matters, and the law therefore allows a variation of one half of a grain in the double eagles; therefore, between a heavy and a light piece, there may be a difference of one grain. This is so slight, however, not two cents in value, as to be deemed sufficiently correct. The weight of the silver half dollar is one hundred and ninety-two grains and the the smaller pieces in proportion, with the exception of the cent,

which, being composed of 88 per cent. copper and 12 per cent. nickel, the weight is seventy-two grains. The weight of the silver coin was reduced in April, 1853. Prior to that date the half dollar was two hundred and six and a quarter grains.

To adjust a coin so accurately requires great delicacy and skill, as a too free use of the file would quickly make it too light. Yet by long practice, so accustomed do the operators become, that they work with apparent recklessness, scarcely glancing at the planchet or scales, but seemingly guided by their touch.

(*To be continued.*)

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM,

Life Member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal.

We have no account of the early currency of Canada beyond that quoted until 1700, when the Copper Company of Upper Canada issued a coin of which a full description is given in this work. [The Coins of Canada can be had in book form, postage free, for \$1 25, by addressing this office.—Ed.] This coin was struck in England for the company, and cannot have been very extensively circulated, from the fact that, as far as we are aware, no cabinet in Canada possesses a specimen. The description given in this book is taken from a work published in England by Rev. Mr. Christmas.

In the sale of the Mickley collection, at New York, in October, 1867, a coin was sold as a Kentucky piece, which had the obverse of this coin, Copper Company, &c., and for the reverse Hope presenting two children to Liberty, who stands surrounded by emblems of peace and plenty, with inscription of "British Settlement in Kentucky." This piece (a proof) sold for forty dollars.

The first coin or token of Canadian home manufacture is the very coarsely executed, but scarce and interesting politico-satirical token, commonly known as the Vexator Canadensis, issued in 1811.

The native artist who labored in the production of this token evidently had not been a student for any length of time in a school of design, but still it appears he was pleased with his own work, for several different specimens of this spoiled piece of copper are found in circulation.

The next issues were the various trade tokens of Nova Scotia, issued in 1814. Nova Scotia was the first colony which issued a regular coinage. In 1823 appeared the penny and half penny tokens, bearing the bust of George IV on the obverse. Similar coins were issued in 1824 and 1832. It is somewhat remarkable to find coins of the latter date bearing the bust of George, as those who study history (which every numismatist must necessarily do) are aware that William IV had then reigned two years. Passing over the intermediate years and their issues we arrive at 1837. It was in this year that the Canadian rebellion burst forth, and one of its results was

the introduction of a great proportion of those tokens which now fill the cabinets of collectors.

It was about this time that the "Un Sou" series made their appearance, also many trade tokens, some of which such as Molson, Brown, Mullins, etc., were struck to the order of the several firms, whose names they bear. The banks of Montreal also issued a large number at the same time.

In 1838 and 1839 the Bank of Montreal issued a penny and half penny token, known as the side view penny, etc., from the fact of its having for its obverse a front and side elevation of the building then occupied by them, and now known as the "Bank du Peuple" (People's Bank). These coins are now rare, particularly those of 1838, but few specimens of which are known, and these command very high prices.

(To be continued.)

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

HENRY III, A. D., 1215.

Obverse.—The pennies of Henry III have only the head, without the neck and shoulders, as in the coins of all other English kings. It is crowned, but the crown is of a curious shape, and as they differ on the pennies of this king, as well as on those of his predecessors, it is likely that they existed only in the imagination of the moneyers, and were not copied from the crowns then worn by our English princes. On the pennies of Henry's first coinage the style is HENRICVS REX and HENRICVS REX III; but on those coined after his thirty-second year there is the addition of TERCI and ANG. These latter coins have also a star, or a crescent and star over the head.

Reverse.—The reverses on his first coinage are the names of moneyers, and a voided cross within the inner circle, in each quarter of which are four pellets conjoined; but in the pennies coined after his thirty-second year an alteration took place, which is described by Matthew Paris, who lived in the reign of this king. The double or voided cross terminating with pellets was then carried to the edge of the coins, and in each corner were three pellets instead of four, not conjoined.

Rarity.—The pennies of this king are very common, except those with TERCI and REX ANG., which are very rare. He coined half pence and farthings, but no collection can boast of either.

EDWARD I, 1272; EDWARD II, 1307.

Obverse.—The coins of these two kings, which consisted of groats, pennies, half pence and farthings, are confounded, and the supposition that those pennies with EDW. are the father's, and those with EDWAR. and EDWARD belong to the son, is a distinction as nice as it is absurd. The heads on the obverse are crowned

with an open crown, and the hair flows on each side of the face; the shoulders are just shown, but the bust is entirely within the inner circle, and the die is altogether more even and perfect. A new coinage, formerly attributed to Edward I, now appears, and is supposed to have been intended for groats. Some are of the opinion that the heavy groats here mentioned were struck by Edward III which is by no means unlikely.

Folkes states that he weighed several of these pieces, and found them to vary from eighty to one hundred and thirty-eight grains, so that it would appear they were only trial pieces. They have the king's bust and a star on each side, within a sort of quartfoil, formed by a double dotted line, with four roses in the angles between it and the inner circle. The legend is EDWARDVS. DI. GRA. REX ANGL. The obverse of the pennies, half pence and farthings has the king's head, as before stated, within the inner circle. The legend of the two former is EDWAR. or EDW. R. ANG. DNS. HYB. The farthing has E. R. ANGLIE.

Reverse.—The reverse of the groats, pennies, half pence and farthings is a plain cross extending to the edge of the coin, and having within the inner circle three pellets in each quarter. The legend of the groat in the outer circle (for this piece has two lettered circles) is the continuation of the style from the obverse; namely, DNS. HIBNE. DVX. AQVT. In the inner circle is CIVI. LONDONIA. The other coins have merely the names of the cities in which they were struck, though some few of Edward I are found with ROBERT DE HADLEIGH and ROBERTVS DE HADL., the last moneyer whose name appears on English coins.

Rarity.—The groat is of the first rarity. The pennies of Hadleigh, Chester and Kingston are scarce; the other pennies are extremely common, and scarcely a year passes without a discovery of new hoards. The half pennies and farthings are somewhat scarce. From this time to the reign of Henry VII, the English coins bear a great resemblance to each other.

The groat of Edward I sold for five and a half guineas at a public sale in London, in March, 1827.

(To be continued.)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BECK.

(Continued.)

No system of credit, as we all know now by sad experience, can be made durable when, in the shape of currency, the issues exceed the want of a medium of trade; or when, in the more permanent form of bonds or certificates of public security, they come forth without a competent tax to pay the interest and a sinking fund to discharge the principal. The over issues in Continental money, being excessive, fell off in value, of course, while, as a natural consequence,

property of all kinds rose in proportion. This increase of price in goods was attempted to be remedied in most of the States by acts of limitation, fixing, under high penalties, the maximum at which property should be sold. These ordinances were rigidly executed; stores were broken open by authorized committees, and goods seized and sold at the limited legal prices, while the owners stood accused before the public of a design to depreciate the currency, and were called tories and speculators and otherwise stigmatized as enemies to their country. But those high-handed persecutions and robberies did not arrest the depreciation on one side, nor the appreciations on the other. Money sank and goods rose; yet an army of more than thirty thousand men, and a small navy, were supported, the wheels of government kept in motion, and the enemy kept at bay! How could such paper funds sustain such an expense? A writer, in the year 1779, says "posterity will hardly credit it; but," continues he, "the universal rage and zeal of the people, through all the States, for an emancipation from a power that claimed a right to bind them in all cases whatsoever, supplied all defects, and made apparent impossibilities really practicable."

Another great error was the making this money a legal tender. It was a source of immense injustice between debtor and creditor. It favoured most, in the language of a contemporary, the slack, the dissipated, the lazy and dilatory, who paid their creditors often at one-twentieth of the value of the debt when it was contracted. This sad expedient was suggested to the States by Congress itself. But that body, which consisted of about fifty members, whose great ability and spotless integrity stand unimpeached, had the candor to confess their mistake, and urged upon the States an immediate repeal, which was, after much solicitation, effected; yet not until thousands of fortunes had been ruined, including chiefly the most generous and patriotic, while the benefit went alone to the avaricious and idle.

(To be continued.)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison*.

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

EUROPE.

MELITA INSULA.

Head of a female with an Egyptian head-dress and the flower of the lotus, MEAITAION.

Reverse.—A male figure kneeling on one knee, with wings on his shoulders and at his hips. In his hands a whip.—E.

Some have a lyre on the reverse and some a tripod.

SYRACUSE.

Helmeted head of Minerva to the right.

Reverse.—A winged sea dog to the left.—Æ.

Some have the head of Jupiter on obverse;—

Reverse.—Victory in a car, and ΞΥΡΑΚΟΞΙΟΝ.—Æ.

LOCRI.

Head of Pallas, to the left behind which a crescent and the letters ΜΟ.

Reverse.—A pegasus to the left, below the letter Λ.—ΑΡ.

GAULOS INSULA.

Head of female with a diadem to the right.

Reverse.—Three Egyptian figures, above them Phœnician characters.—Æ.

A tripod is a common reverse.

SEGESTA.

Female head to the right.

Reverse.—A dog regardant, underneath, a globe.—Æ.

CORINTH.

Helmeted head of Minerva to the right, within an indented square.

Reverse.—A pegasus to left.—ΑΡ.

CÆNE INSULA.

A horse in full gallop, a star above.

Reverse.—A griffin running to the left, a grasshopper below.

On some the griffin is winged.

SARDINIA INSULA.

A male head with shaggy hair to the right.

Reverse.—Three ears of corn on one stalk.—Æ.

PANTICAPEUM.

Head of Pan.

Reverse.—ΙΑΝΤΙ, a tripod.—Æ.

OLBIA, OR OLBIOPOLIS.

Head of Apollo to the right.

Reverse.—An eagle with a fish in his talons.—Æ.

The types of the coins of Olbiopolis are very numerous; some have a dolphin on the reverse, some a club with a bow in a case, an axe, the fore quarters of two horses conjoined, an eagle and a bow and spear. Many of them are countermarked. A work was published by Didot, in Paris, a few years since, containing descriptions of a number of the coins of this city, accompanied by beautiful engraved plates.

ISTHRUS.

Two male heads joined.

Reverse.—ΙΞΤΡΗ, an eagle with a dolphin in its talons.—ΑΡ.

ABDERA (IN THRACE).

Head of Apollo to the left.

Reverse.—A lyre, with the letter Α.—Æ.

Some have the bust of Bacchus with the panther's skin.

LIFE SCENES IN THE EXPERIENCE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

No. 11.

There is no greater source of annoyance to a coin dealer than the visits of the "knowing ones," those who have studied the science of numismatology sufficiently to become familiar with the set phrases constantly in use among coin collectors, and who have heard and believe many strange fictions in regard to the origin and history of coins, and have puzzling questions and ready information at their tongues' end. The "Knowing One" selects his time for volunteering numismatic information and putting perplexing inquiries. The accepted time for a successful "strike" is when the dealer has a store full of intelligent visitors and purchasers. We cannot describe more particularly the "Knowing One" further than to say he is an *intelligent* fool, who always has a little time and small change to spend at the coin stores. We shall never forget one of this class who paid us a visit not long since, while we were explaining to a purchaser, who was selecting a set of United States cents, the well-known fact that in the year 1815 no coinage of cents was made at the United States Mint:

Patron.—"You say there was no cent coined in 1815?"

Knowing One.—(Interrupting).—"Allow me to correct the gentleman; he means 1814. In 1815 there was a number of copper cents coined, but by some error the melting pot for gold, containing some of the precious metal, was used, and the copper and gold united, so that the cents of 1814 were part gold, and worth five dollars each. The people soon discovered the fact, and the cents were eagerly snapped up and melted, which accounts for the scarcity of that coin."

Dealer.—(Smiling).—"You have been imposed upon, sir; there never was a die made at our Mint for an 1815 cent."

Knowing One.—"I have one of the identical coppers in my pocket, and—"

Patron.—(Interrupting).—"Will you have the kindness to show it to us, sir?"

Dealer.—(Ironically).—"Show it, sir, by all means, and if it is a genuine United States cent of that date, we will give you five hundred dollars for it."

Knowing One.—(Fumbles in all his pockets, and finally uncaps a small box and unwraps a coin, which he triumphantly exhibits to the customer).—"There it is, sir; I can't be wrong; never was; give it to the dealer, and he can oblige me by handing over the five C's."

Dealer examines the coin, pronounces it an altered piece, and returns it, to the intense disgust of the "Knowing One," who passes it around to those present, all concurring with the opinion of the dealer that it is an 1813 cent altered to 1815.

Knowing One.—(Excitedly).—"One moment, gentlemen! This dealer asserts that there was but one omission in the coinage of cents, and the omitted date was 1815. Now, as I have proved there

was an 1815 cent, and exhibited it, I ask him to tell me how it comes that the Mint was destroyed by fire in 1814, and that no coinage of any kind was made in that year?"

Dealer.—(Interrupting) —“ You are again in error, sir ; there were half dollars, dimes and cents coined in 1814.”

Knowing One.—“ Never, sir ; not a red cent. If you can show me one of that date, I will confess I am a fool and know nothing of coins.”

At this point a country store keeper entered, and placing a bag of coppers on the counter, requested the dealer to buy them, saying he had heard a certain date was valuable, and had only collected one date, 1814. The “Knowing One” stood aghast while the dealer emptied the bag, and sure enough there were over one hundred cents, and all of the very common date, 1814. Suffice it that the intruder quit the premises amid a storm of jeers and laughter from a dozen witnesses of this peculiar incident.

[Our next sketch will give further characteristics of the “knowing ones”]

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

(Continued.)

First, as to the *table*: this contains eight square *facets*, the diagonals of which, as they are arranged, form an imaginary perfect octagon, parallel with that really produced by the truncation of the pyramid. One side of the octagon *facet*, one side of one square *facet*, and one side of the adjacent square *facet* form a triangular *facet*, and thus in all are formed eight triangular *facets*. Now there are still sixteen more triangular *facets* about the *table*. They are formed as follows. As the square *facets*, united diagonally around the *table*, incline to each other, the angles formed outside of them by the conjunction of their corners, are much more obtuse below, or next to the *girdle*, than above. In order, therefore, not to reduce unnecessarily the size of the stone, it is not ground down to one triangular plane between one lower side of one square *facet*, the uniting lower side of an adjacent square *facet* and one-eighth of the *girdle*, but to two triangular planes each of which two has one side that is identical, one side formed respectively by the two adjacent square *facets*, and the third side by a sixteenth of the *girdle*. Thus are formed upon the surface of the *table* sixteen triangular *facets* below the eight square *facets*. These sixteen, the eight square ones, and the eight upper triangular ones before described, and the large octagon shaped *facet*, forming in all thirty-three, embrace the whole external surface of the *table*.

Second, as to the *collet*. This, when not at all truncated, contains around the vertex eight lozenge shaped *facets*, whose upper sides

(we speak of the *collet* as a pyramid) are all united. The spaces between the lower sides of the lozenges and the *girdle* are ground into sixteen triangular *facets*, in the same manner as in the *table*. The eight lower corners of the lozenges unite upon the *girdle* with the eight lower corners of the squares, and the sixteen lower triangles in the *table* all abut on the sixteen triangles in the *collet*. Now the vertex of the *collet* is generally cut off; this produces a small octagonal *facet*, and at the same time converts the lozenge shaped *facets* into pentagon shapes. Thus the *collet* is included in twenty-five planes.

The whole surface of the *Brilliant* is then divided as follows. two octagons, eight squares, eight pentagons and forty triangles—in all fifty-eight *facets*, and the *girdle* is a perfect heccadecagon.

The *Brilliant* is generally set in open work which attaches only at intervals at the *girdle*, allowing the light to enter under the stone. Thus the *Brilliant* when set exposes the thirty-three *facets* of the *table* and reveals, through its large octagon *facet*, the small octagon *facet* of the *collet* and the eight pentagons springing therefrom. It is a very beautiful mode of cutting, we must confess, and we doubt much if a superior form will ever be elicited.

(To be continued.)

NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

(Continued.)

Jacobus.—English gold coin, valued at about \$6.

Jane.—Genoese coin.

Jefferson Head.—Referring to a variety of the United States cents of 1795.

Jetton.—Metal counter, stamped to indicate its character.

Keg Rubbed.—Coins having very slight marks, often caused at the Mint by packing, counting, etc. Kegs of copper cents were frequently sent South from the Mint, and subsequently returned, having all their original brightness, but being slightly scratched by transportation—hence the term.

Kesitah.—Gold Hebrew coin, value about \$4.

Kopek.—Russian coin, 1-100 part of a rouble.

Kopfstuck.—Bavarian coin, about 16 cents.

Kreutzer.—German coin, chiefly confined to Austria and Baden.

Larin.—Persian wire coin, about 12 cents.

Laureated.—Head on a coin crowned with laurel.

Legend.—Inscription on a coin or medal.

Lettered Edge.—Having letters or words around the outer edge, as on the United States cents and half cents of 1793, 1794 and 1795.

Leopoldone.—Tuscan coin, worth about \$1 05.

Liberty Cap.—Early United States coins having the cap and pole.

Lira.—Silver coin, south of Europe, worth about 18½ cents.

Libra.—Roman and Spanish coins; the former worth about \$16 50; the latter worth about 56 cents.

Livre.—Old French coin, worth about 18 cents.

Loth.—German coinage.

Louisd'or.—French gold coin, worth about \$4 50.

(*To be continued.*)

NUMISMATIC OBITUARY.

Called upon to chronicle the demise of a worthy numismatic journal, we approach the subject with sympathetic feelings, and regret, what, as faithful numismatic journalists, we are obliged to make public. Prof. Anthon, the able editor of the *New York American Numismatic Journal*, informed us long since that his publication would be suspended with the April number; but hoping that the Numismatic Society in New York would reconsider the matter we omitted any allusion to the sad fact in our May number. Now that the decease of the said journal is beyond question, and wishing to be "in at the death," we give place to this obituary, and adopt the usual mourning. The decease was well and favorably known in the numismatic community, and lived to the extreme old age of four years; respected (*not supported*) by a choice circle of warm admirers. Although we differed in opinion with the managers as to the conduct of the *New York Journal*, yet we bear cheerful witness to the scientific ability of its editors. Our wish, in concluding this melancholy article, is that some sympathetic pen may deal kindly with our errors and tread lightly on the ashes of this journal when its turn may come to shuffle off this mortal coil.

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

Attention is particularly directed to our sale of 17th inst., at Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co.'s auction rooms, Clinton Hall, New York. This sale will be remarkable as embracing many excessively rare coins and United States pattern pieces, the international currency, postage currency, gold pieces of 1865 of the "In God we trust" series, and pattern gold of 1868; several fine and extremely rare colonials; the celebrated Randall's Jefferson Head Cent of 1795; rare medals, and many other desirable pieces. The sale will commence at half past seven o'clock in the evening (sharp.) Parties at a distance wishing to send bids can have catalogues by addressing this office.

CANADA SHINPLASTERS.

We have received from Montreal a specimen twenty-five cent note of the new issue of small notes lately authorized by the Dominion of Canada. This note resembles in general appearance the United States currency, and is a handsome specimen of art, creditable alike in design and execution. All praise should be awarded to the British American Bank Note Company for this pretty little greenback shin-plaster. These notes can be had for forty cents at this office.

J. MONTGOMERY BOND'S NEW YORK COIN SALE

This sale was confined to a supplementary catalogue issued in connection with Mr. Bond's book sale, and sold at the conclusion of the latter, on Saturday evening, May 7. There was a large audience present at the coin sale, a large portion having been attracted to view the gold medal presented to Washington by Congress. This medal was limited to four thousand dollars, and only one thousand was bid; consequently, the patriotic owner can hold it a few years longer. Gold medals of this description can probably be struck from the dies, said to be in France, for about \$200, and if this is the case, it would be the height of folly to pay the large sum demanded for this medal by owner, unless it is authenticated beyond the shadow of a doubt that Bond's medal is the identical one presented to Washington. The coins, autographs, curiosities, etc., were sold at high prices. Common dates of half cents, such as we sell at 3 and 5 cents each, brought 25 to 50 cents each.

NEW BUSINESS CARD.

We have just issued a store card, having on obverse Washington's bust (full face), "Born Feb. 22, 1732. Died Dec. 14, 1799." Reverse, "Mason & Co., Coin and Stamp Dealers, 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia, 1870." This card is from dies made by Charles K. Warner, medalist, No. 1021 Chestnut Street, in this city, and for beauty and perfectness of design, as well as sharpness and uniformity of impression, is not excelled by any card in America. We have had proof sets struck expressly for collectors, comprising silver, nickel, copper, brass and white metal. Price, \$1 the set of five pieces. Three of these cards only were struck in gold for private parties. Any person sending us a new subscriber to this magazine will receive a set of these beautiful metallic cards.

WARNERS' NEW LINCOLN MEDAL.

We have a supply of this medal struck in white metal. Obverse, "A. Lincoln, President of the United States, 1864." Reverse, "Born Feb. 12, 1809. Assassinated April 14, 1865." Size 18; proofs. Price, 15 cents.

WARNER'S FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT MEDAL.

We are now prepared to fill orders for sets of this medal, in silver, bronze and white metal; all fine proofs (size 18) for \$2 per set of three pieces.

CORRECTION.

We wish to contradict the impression prevailing in New York and elsewhere that pattern pieces are restruck at the United States mint. All patterns in our sale, June 17, are from a private collection and all dies of the same are destroyed. Pattern pieces will eventually bring enormous prices, as the supply will fall short of the demand.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PATTERN.—The statement made in reference to similarity of designs on the United States pattern silver 50 cent, 25 cent and 10 cent pieces, 1869 and 1870, was an error, the party giving us the information (published in our last issue) having been wrongly informed. The designs on the nine patterns for 1870 differ materially from those of 1869. The price is the same for each set, viz, \$15.

R. T.—The Pacific Railroad medal is out. Price, \$1 25 for bronze, \$5 for silver.

S. H. M.—Have anticipated your suggestion, and shall shortly issue our first trade token or business card. See editorial.

R. C. S.—“The Numismatic Dream” was a little burlesque suggested by a similar dream in the March number of the *New York Journal of Numismatics*. This was explained by a foot note in the MSS. omitted by the printer.

A. C., NEW YORK.—The editor of the coin department is also editor of stamp matter, and will make an effort, at least, to improve the stamp department of this magazine. We have now no assistant in either department.

S. S. CHILICOTHE.—Is this your proper address? Dr. Gray's Catalogue, now ready; price, \$1. Send for our price list of cheap coin and stamp packets.

A. R. W.—By all means bind the covers in with the volumes of the magazines, as it not unfrequently happens that matter appears on the covers worthy of preserving for future reference. The article you refer to in a Boston quarterly stamp journal is a libellous slander, which in due course of time will be thoroughly ventilated. We do not believe the letter from Leonard & Co. is a genuine production of that firm, as the ear marks of a concoction for the occasion are too prominent; it being impossible for us to deduct \$2 from a C. O. D. Express Co's bill, as the letter asserts. We have written L. & Co., and await their answer before proceeding legally to punish the authors of the libel. As an *advertising dodge* the article might have some merit, but will not meet with success as far as this journal is concerned.

R. S., JR.—The new issue United States Post Office stamps will cost you \$2 25 for the complete set of 10 stamps, 1 cent to 90 cents, inclusive.

T. T.—Priced stamp catalogues of New York sale, 50 cents.

 ALLEN'S SILVER SALE.

On the 25th, 26th and 27th of May, the celebrated collection of the late John Allen, the antiquary, was sold at the rooms of Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., Clinton Hall, New York. This collection consisted entirely of silver medals and coins, and was the property of J. C. Newcomb, who purchased it some years previous to the death of Mr. Allen. At another time we will give the chief points of interest in the sale.

NEW YORK POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

On the 28th ult., a unique sale came off at Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co.'s auction rooms, Astor Place, it being the first public sale of foreign and American postage stamps in this country, if not in the world. Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co. deserve credit for the able manner in which this sale was managed, and great credit is also due to the auctioneers who exhibited remarkable patience and perseverance in obtaining the highest possible price for each lot in the catalogue. The sale was well attended, nine-tenths of the audience being adults, refuting the general opinion that boys and girls only are engaged in collecting postage stamps. It will be seen by the following priced catalogue, which we shall publish in full, that the sale was a decided success.

PRICED CATALOGUE OF NEW YORK POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

MAY 28, 1870.

100 mixed Foreign Stamps.	60 cents.
200 mixed Foreign Stamps.	90 cents.
300 mixed Foreign Stamps.	\$1 10.
400 mixed Foreign Stamps.	\$1 55.
500 mixed Foreign Stamps.	\$2 00.
750 mixed Foreign Stamps.	\$2 37.
1000 mixed Foreign Stamps.	\$3 50.
Philatelist's Stamp Album, boards.	50 cents.
Philatelist's Stamp Album, cloth.	80 cents.
Scott's American Stamp Album, cloth.	\$1.
Scott's American Stamp Album, morocco.	\$1 62.
American Lallier's Stamp Album, cloth.	\$2 75.
American Lallier's Stamp Album, half bound.	\$3.
American Lallier's Stamp Album, morocco.	\$4.
American Lallier's Stamp Album, interleaved.	\$5 50.
Vol. I American Journal of Philately.	60 cents.
Vol. II American Journal of Philately.	50 cents.
Vols. I and II American Journal of Philately.	\$1.
Vol. I Philatelist	\$1 37.
Vol. II Philatelist.	\$1.
10 Colonial Stamps, including Bermuda, Grenada, etc.	60 cents.
Set of 9 German Official Stamps, uncanceled.	45 cents.
4 scarce English Revenue Stamps.	62 cents.
7 scarce Revenue Stamps, including Cuba, Nova Scotia, etc.	55 cents.
7 scarce Revenue Stamps, including Cuba, Peru, etc.	40 cents.
7 scarce English Bill Stamps, high values.	40 cents.
6 scarce Revenue Stamps, including a very scarce Canadian.	60 cents.
7 scarce Revenue Stamps, Denmark, etc.	37 cents.
1 Corrientes Stamp, uncanceled.	\$1 12.
<i>(To be continued.)</i>	

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

1869 ISSUE OF UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS.



We present the full issue this month of one of the most remarkable sets of postage stamps issued by any government since adhesive stamps were originated.

To rescue the ornamental labels from obscurity, and hand down to posterity a series of pretty pictures, as well as to caution other governments from falling into the error the United States has just recovered from, are the only apologies we have to offer for printing these stamps. Compared to the new series, now in use, the issue of 1869 is an abortion, exhibiting an attempt to associate bright colors with elaborate pictorial historical representations, lacking in uniformity, finish and design. We regret that the colors are not given in our otherwise correct representations of the postage stamp issue of 1869.



NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES.—The American Bank Note Company is preparing a full set of revenue stamps (1 cent to \$200) for this government; also, a full set of envelope stamps. The revenues will partake somewhat (in the matter of pictorial views) of the character of the adhesive postage stamps of 1869, judging by proofs we have seen.

DOMINICA.—A London correspondent of ours has very obligingly communicated to us a proof impression of the type which has just been engraved for this island, obtained by him from the engraver himself. It is a very charming stamp, rivalling the St. Lucia in its fineness of execution, and to a certain extent resembling it in design, though it is by no means a slavish copy. The profile of the Queen, diademed and with pendant curl, occupies the centre, on a solid ground, formed of very fine waved vertical lines. This is enclosed in a light and rather narrow oval frame, with double lined edges, bearing the word DOMINICA in a clearly cut type, slightly raised and enclosed within a kind of label, just over the portrait; and in the lower half is a similar label left blank for the value. The spandrels are filled in with a delicate open engine-turned pattern and the stamp is completed by an exterior double-lined frame. The proof before us is struck in chrome yellow on thickish cartridge paper. Our correspondent gleans from the engraver that the emission will take place about the end of the year, but neither the colors nor the values appear to be fixed on as yet.

ST. CHRISTOPHER (or ST. KITTS).—Passing now to the second novelty (for information respecting which we are indebted to *Le Timbre-Post*) it appears that two stamps are, or shortly will be, emitted, namely: One penny, rose. Sixpence, green.

The design is said to consist of the Queen's head to the left, in a circle inscribed with the name of the island, ST. CHRISTOPHER, and the value in words. The impression is on white paper, watermarked cc. and crown, and, without doubt, perforated.

VICTORIA.—Still keeping among the colonies, we have next to chronicle a change in the type of the Victoria twopenny, which no doubt foreshadows a change in the whole series. Although the type here given has rather a bald appearance, it is, after all, preferable to its predecessor. It is, at least, neatly engraved and printed on a surfaced paper, whilst the latter, though itself a considerable advance on the green penny, which it superseded, was, after all, but a rough and uncouth production as compared with the engravings of Messrs. De La Rue, who, it is scarcely necessary to state, are the fabricators of the new type. Judged by itself, however, the De La Rue stamp shows many defects: the letters of the word VICTORIA are widely spaced and poor; the side discs, and the figures they contain, are insignificant: the spandrel ornaments common and tawdry, and the oval too narrow; besides which, the design is too evidently a copy of the Natal, and shows an utter want of originality. In the land of blind, the one-eyed man is king, and so this stamp will lord it over most of the other Victorians; but as a specimen of what the first English engravers can do, it is not a thing to be very proud of. So much by way of criticism. We have now only to add that the old color—lilac—is maintained for the new type, that the "V and crown" watermark appears in the paper, and that the stamp is already in circulation.

BELGIUM.—If we have reason to complain of the lack of talent shown by our English stamp designers, the Belgians make far louder objections on the same score. For our own part, we cannot see that the new Belgian series is so dreadfully bad as those who have to employ it make it out to be ; but, perhaps they are the best judges after all. Whether or not the newly-issued types deserve the severe strictures passed upon them, our readers must judge for themselves. At any rate, it must be admitted the authorities themselves are by no means hasty in courting public opinion, for hardly had any of the stamps been issued at the date prescribed by the official decree. The 30 centimes came out some time in March. The 40 centimes and 1 franc are just out. The colors are

30 centimes, amber. 40 centimes, carmine. 1 franc, violet.

The 5 centimes, amber, identical in type with the 8 centimes has made its appearance. The 6 centimes will be modelled on the design of the 8 centimes.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

A PHILATELIC TRANSATLANTIC COMPLIMENT.

The editor of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Bath, England, in the May number of that journal, takes occasion, in referring to the new issue of United States postage stamps, to indulge in a characteristic left-handed compliment to Americans, in the following article: "This new series, if it at all answers our expectations (*suppose it does not, what then? Ed.*) will be a very handsome and interesting one, forming, as it will, quite a picture gallery of the leading American celebrities, but it is a pity that there is no room in it for portraits of Vanderbilt, Fisk and Barnum, for they are all representative men." We dislike to call names, and indulge in the vituperation of angry school urchins, but cannot resist the temptation to suggest to the aforesaid editor the propriety of his circulating a petition for the substitution of some of the busts of England's representative men (on the next series of English postage stamps) for the pictures now in use of that excellent woman, Queen Victoria. We might offer, for example, the Lloyds, Lairds, or CAPT. EYRE for the maritime representation, or some of the early kings for the civil list, but we dislike to be uncivil and will leave the selection to the petitioners, knowing that either Vanderbilt, Fisk, or Barnum will outshine in manliness, physical beauty and uprightness any three representative men England can produce.

NEW ENVELOPE AND REVENUE STAMPS.

A new series of envelope stamps, beautifully designed and artistically executed, will shortly be issued by the United States Government ; also a new series of revenue stamps, from one cent to two hundred dollars, inclusive. The two hundred dollar stamp of the new revenue issue is especially attractive, having a large spread eagle in the centre. This stamp is of about the same length as the former two hundred dollar issue, and somewhat wider.



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